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General Assembly

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Seventy-first session
Agenda items 91 and 98

Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 17 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, in my capacity as New York coordinator of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the text of the Declaration of the Member States of OPANAL on the fiftieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), adopted in Mexico City on 14 February 2017 (see annex).

I would appreciate your assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 91 and 98.

(*Signed*) Mauro **Vieira**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

17-02945 (E) 010317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 17 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Declaration of the Member States of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean on the fiftieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The States of Latin America and the Caribbean, all of them parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), represented by their ministers for foreign affairs, meeting on 14 February 2017 in Mexico City, at the twenty-fifth session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco:

Conscious that Latin America and the Caribbean, at a complex political juncture that clearly showed the need for military denuclearization, was able to create an unprecedented treaty for international peace and security, which would guarantee the absence of nuclear weapons in the region and, at the same time, the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, as is the case with research centres having, inter alia, medical and food components;

Proud of the historical responsibility of belonging to the "zone of peace", proclaimed for the first time in Latin America and the Caribbean by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, at its second summit, held in Havana on 29 January 2014;

Recalling their decision to contribute to the consolidation of peace based on the sovereign equality of States, on mutual respect and good-neighbourliness, on the peaceful settlement of disputes, on the non-use and non-threat of use of force, on the right to self-determination, on territorial integrity and on non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States;

Reiterating that militarily denuclearized zones do not constitute an end in themselves, but rather a highly relevant intermediary step towards the realization of nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament under effective international control;

Reiterating their conviction that the establishment of militarily denuclearized zones is closely related to the maintenance of peace and security in the respective regions and that the military denuclearization of vast geographical zones, adopted by the sovereign decision of the States comprised therein, has exercised a beneficial influence on other regions;

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly, through its resolution 68/32, decided "to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress made in this regard";

Recalling also the commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons on 26 September as part of the global efforts to achieve the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons, and urging

Governments, parliaments and civil society to take additional measures each year to commemorate this date;

Again emphasizing that nuclear weapons, whose terrible effects are suffered, indiscriminately and inexorably, by military forces and civilian population alike, constitute, through the persistence of the radioactivity they release, an attack on the integrity of the human species and ultimately may even render the whole earth uninhabitable;

Similarly recalling the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Oslo in 2013 and in Nayarit (Mexico) and Vienna in 2014, which confirmed that nuclear weapons constitute a threat to humankind, by their mere existence and by their possible use or threat of use, as well as by the potential damage that an accidental or intentional detonation could cause to global health, food security and climate, among other fields, and by the lack of capacity of the international community to face a humanitarian catastrophe of such a magnitude;

Acknowledging also the efforts being pursued in the multilateral context in order to identify and seek effective measures, the adoption of which will be necessary to establish and maintain a world without nuclear weapons;

Reiterating that, although nuclear-weapon States have the ultimate responsibility for eliminating their nuclear arsenals, it is the responsibility of all States to prevent the humanitarian impact and all effects of nuclear weapons;

Reaffirming that the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons are a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international humanitarian law, and constitute a crime against humanity;

Also considering that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their prohibition and elimination in a transparent, verifiable and irreversible manner, within clearly established time frames;

Recalling that the United Nations General Assembly, at its first session, adopted its first resolution, resolution 1(I), on 24 January 1946, which mainly addresses the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the elimination of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction;

Celebrating the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, of resolution 71/258, in which it decides, inter alia, "to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination";

Highlighting the unveiling of a commemorative plaque, on 18 November 2016, that reads "Here in Tijuana, the most north-western municipality of all Latin America, begins the nuclear-weapon-free zone of Latin America and the Caribbean, which extends to the farthest southern extreme of the continent. As established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco in 1967, within this 80-million-square-kilometre region there are no nuclear weapons nor will there ever be";

The States parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, all of them members of OPANAL:

1. *Reiterate their deep concern* over the existence of nuclear weapons, as it continues to be an imminent threat to the peace and security of our planet, and therefore *believe* it is in the interest of all that under no circumstances nuclear weapons be used again;

2. *Recall* the role of OPANAL as the "specialized body in the region for articulating common positions and joint actions on nuclear disarmament", as stated in the special declarations on nuclear disarmament adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Community of Latin American and

Caribbean States held in Cuba in 2014, in Costa Rica in 2015 and in Ecuador in 2016;

3. *Reiterate*, pending the achievement of nuclear disarmament, the legitimate interest of the non-nuclear-weapon States, among which all the States members of OPANAL are included, in receiving an unequivocal and legally binding guarantee of non-use and non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against them from nuclear-weapon States, and *also urge* that efforts be made towards negotiating and adopting, within the shortest possible time frame, a universal and legally binding instrument on negative security assurances;

4. *Call on* nuclear-weapon States that have issued interpretative declarations on Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco that are contrary to the spirit of the Treaty to examine them, together with OPANAL, with the objective of revising or eliminating them, in order to provide full and unequivocal security assurances to the States forming the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to respect the militarily denuclearized character of the region;

5. *Emphasize* that nuclear-weapon-free zones promote peace and stability at the regional and international levels by prohibiting the possession, acquisition, development, testing, manufacturing, production, stockpiling, deployment and use of nuclear weapons;

6. *Stress* that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which created the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, has served as a source of inspiration for four other regions in the world, and *consider also* that the Treaty and OPANAL are an important endowment of the international community and a political, legal and institutional reference for the creation of other nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of agreements freely arrived at by the States of the regions concerned;

7. *Regret* the failure to fulfil the agreement to hold an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and *reiterate* that the convening of such a conference is an integral and important part of the Final Document of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[*] and therefore *call* for the convening of this conference as soon as possible, with the participation of all States in the Middle East, on the basis of agreements freely concluded between the States of the region concerned and with the full support and commitment of the nuclear-weapon States;

8. *Regret* the continued failure of nuclear-weapon States to comply with article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and with the commitments emanating from the Review Conferences, and *regret also* that the 2015 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons concluded without the adoption of a final document;

9. *Condemn* the modernization of existing nuclear weapons and the development of new types of such weapons, which is inconsistent with the obligation to adopt effective measures towards nuclear disarmament, and, in this regard, *demand* the cessation by nuclear-weapon States of the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, as well as related infrastructures;

10. *Welcome* the commemoration, in July 2016, of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the agreements through which Argentina and Brazil confirmed their unequivocal commitment to the use of nuclear energy for strictly

[*] NPT/CONF.2010/50 (Vol. I), part I, p. 30, para. 7 (a).

peaceful purposes, thereby creating the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials, and *highlight* that the successful experience of Argentina and Brazil has been recognized internationally and that it constitutes an example and source of inspiration for other regions around the world, particularly for those where nuclear-weapon-free zones do not yet exist;

11. *Stress* the importance of cooperation among the States parties to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga), the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (Treaty of Bangkok), the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia (Treaty of Semipalatinsk), which established nuclear-weapon-free zones, and Mongolia;

12. *Stress once more* that a world free of nuclear weapons is indispensable for the fulfilment of the principal aims of humankind, namely, peace, security and development, and therefore *consider* that the immediate action must be that all Member States of the United Nations actively participate in the United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination, convened in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/258.

United Nations A/71/804–S/2017/154

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 20 February 2017, addressed to you by Yasa Yeşilada, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

17-02929 (E) 010317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey herewith a letter dated 16 February 2017, addressed to you by Sibel Siber, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see enclosure).

The original of the said letter is being mailed to you separately.

(*Signed*) Yasa **Yeşilada**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

As might have already come to your attention, the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives took a decision on 10 February 2017 to commemorate the 1950 enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools.

Enosis, which literally means the unification of the island with Greece, not only ignored the existence and identity of the Turkish Cypriot people, one of the co-owners of the island, but was the underlying reason behind the Cyprus dispute. As you are well aware, the Greek Cypriot side's aim of enosis resulted eventually in the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot partner, which carried out an onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot people and forcibly expelled them from the State organs, bringing about the Security Council decision to send a United Nations peacekeeping force to Cyprus in 1964.

Given these historical facts, such a decision, particularly at a time when the negotiation process has reached a critical and historical stage, is in contravention of the ongoing negotiation process and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014. In fact, at the heart of enosis lies the Hellenization of the island, the antithesis of a bizonal, bicommunal federation based on the political equality of the two sides and the equal status of the two constituent States.

It is even graver that, instead of expressing his dismay, the Greek Cypriot leader, Nicos Anastasiades, is attempting to downplay this decision, which aims to inject younger generations with the idea of enosis, the very cause of the Cyprus question.

This attitude once more justifies the Turkish Cypriot side's insistence on such issues as political equality, effective participation in the decision-making process, primary law and the continuation of the Treaties of Guarantee and of Alliance.

Coupled with the recent intransigent attitude of the Greek Cypriot leadership at the negotiation table, this decision has further escalated suspicions concerning the Greek Cypriot side's goodwill and sincerity towards finding a solution within the framework of United Nations parameters and has deepened the distrust of the Turkish Cypriot people towards the Greek Cypriot side. Naturally, the Turkish Cypriot people as a whole are deeply concerned about the efforts of the Greek Cypriot leadership to keep the idea of enosis and the Hellenization of Cyprus alive, which is perceived as a threat to their very existence. Within this context, I deem it necessary to emphasize that there is consensus across the whole political spectrum and among the Turkish Cypriot people regarding this decision and the attitude of the Greek Cypriot leadership in this respect.

I would like to seize this opportunity to bring to your kind attention a joint declaration by the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus condemning the decision of the Greek Cypriot parliament to commemorate the enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools (see attachment).

This decision of the Greek Cypriot parliament and the stance of Mr. Anastasiades have dealt a serious blow to the confidence between the two leaders and the two peoples on the island, which is extremely detrimental to your mission of good offices. I therefore hope and trust that you will take immediate action to ensure that the Greek Cypriot leadership steps back from this historical error which may lead to irreparable outcomes.

(*Signed*) Sibel **Siber**
Speaker

Attachment

Joint declaration by the Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus condemning the decision of the Greek Cypriot House of Representatives to commemorate the enosis plebiscite in Greek Cypriot schools

13 February 2017

- It is well known by all which historical facts the Turkish Cypriot people recall with regard to "enosis", the movement which ignores the existence and identity of the Turkish Cypriot people, one of the co-owners of the island of Cyprus.
- Despite all past experiences, our people have always put forward their willingness to reach a solution which ensures that the painful events of the past will not be repeated. The Turkish Cypriot people voted in favour of the Annan plan in 2004 and subsequently kept alive their will to reach a settlement.
- The Legislative Assembly of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has supported all of the settlement negotiation processes to date in accordance with the will of our people and has taken decisions in support of a solution in line with United Nations parameters. Most recently, it has expressed full support for the document signed by the two leaders on 11 February 2014.
- Despite the Turkish Cypriot side's continuing will for a solution, the decision taken by the House of Representatives of the Greek Cypriot Administration to commemorate in schools the 1950 plebiscite for enosis constitutes an approach which is in complete contravention of the document of 11 February 2014 as well as the ongoing negotiation process.
- It should be well known that this decision has been perceived by the Turkish Cypriot side as serious disrespect for the main philosophy behind the negotiation process, has deepened the distrust of the Turkish Cypriot people towards the Greek Cypriots and has further escalated suspicions concerning the Greek Cypriot side's goodwill and sincerity towards finding a solution within the framework of United Nations parameters.
- We seriously condemn the fact that the Greek Cypriot side has brought "enosis" to the agenda at a time when the process to find a solution to the Cyprus problem is ongoing, and we request that the United Nations take immediate action to ensure that the Greek Cypriot side steps back from this historical error which may lead to irreparable outcomes.

Sibel Siber
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Tufan Erhürman
Leader of the Republican Turkish Party

Hüseyin Özgürgün
Leader of the National Unity Party

Serdar Denktaş
Leader of the Democrat Party

pp Hüseyin Angolemli
Leader of the Communal Democracy Party

Independent members of parliament

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United Nations A/71/805

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 February 2017

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Seventy-first session
Agenda item 14
Culture of peace

Letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information relating to the twenty-fifth anniversary of Uzbekistan's membership in the United Nations (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14.

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**

17-02958 (E) 030317

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Twenty-fifth anniversary of Uzbekistan's cooperation with the United Nations

On 2 March 1992 the Republic of Uzbekistan became a full Member of the United Nations and our national flag was raised in front of United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Over the past 70 years since its establishment, the United Nations has been recognized throughout the world as a universal international institution for maintaining international peace and security, promoting sustainable development and protecting the environment. The growth of the international authority and relevance of the Organization and its leadership role in resolving many highly complex modern-day problems are increasingly evident.

Uzbekistan, ever since the first years of its independence, has opted for a path of peaceful and constructive development, based on the values of humanism and peace. On the basis of a deep understanding of the commonality of interests and destinies of all the States and peoples of Central Asia, and also the inseparability of regional and global security, Uzbekistan's international efforts are directed towards ensuring the peaceful and stable development of the region.

The preservation and strengthening of stability in Central Asia and its transformation into a zone of security and sustainable development are among the priority objectives of Uzbekistan's foreign policy framework. President S. M. Mirziyoyev has defined the Central Asian region, with which our country's national interests are intertwined, as the main priority of Uzbekistan's foreign policy activities and has asserted that Uzbekistan will remain firmly committed to an open, well-intentioned and pragmatic policy in relation to its closest neighbours — Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

The President of Uzbekistan has stressed that active cooperation with the United Nations accords with our country's national interests. Through productive cooperation with the Organization and its agencies, Uzbekistan seeks not only to strengthen regional stability but also to make a meaningful contribution to global peace and security. The main priorities of cooperation with the United Nations include confronting contemporary threats and challenges, post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, tackling environmental problems, in particular, mitigating the effects of the Aral sea crisis, socioeconomic development, and the protection and promotion of human rights — in other words, issues which extend far beyond the borders of the Central Asian region.

The initiative to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia, put forward by Mr. I. A. Karimov, the first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, from the General Assembly rostrum in 1993, was an important contribution to the strengthening of the global non-proliferation regime. The Central Asian States signed the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia in September 2006 in Semipalatinsk. After ratification by all five States of the region, the Treaty entered into force in March 2009. On 6 May 2014, a truly historic event took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York — for the first time since the establishment of the United Nations, representatives of the "five" nuclear States —

the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, China and the Russian Federation — unanimously and simultaneously signed a crucially important international document — the Protocol on security guarantees to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

The Central Asian region is making an enormous contribution to the strengthening of regional security and the consolidation of the global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and has assumed a solid place in the international disarmament agenda.

As a party to all 13 United Nations conventions on combating terrorism, Uzbekistan has put forward major initiatives aimed at consolidating the efforts of the international community in this sphere and creating a global system of multilateral cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. In this context, our country welcomes the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism and wholeheartedly supports its efforts to strengthen the capacity of States Members of the Organization to counter this scourge. The establishment of this Committee is in part the result of an initiative to establish an international counter-terrorism centre put forward by the leadership of Uzbekistan at the summit meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Istanbul back in 1999.

Uzbekistan cooperates closely with the United Nations in the area of combating drug-related aggression. On the proposal of the first President, Mr. I. A. Karimov, during the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General to Tashkent in October 2002, the Central Asian regional information and coordination centre for combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors was established.

Uzbekistan attaches particular importance to efforts to bring to an end the violent war which has raged for many years in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which has caused enormous suffering for the Afghan people and has become a source of serious threats for the entire region.

As early as 1993, at the forty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly, the first President of Uzbekistan sounded the alarm, calling on the international community to contribute actively to a solution of the Afghan problem. Uzbekistan is the sponsor of two initiatives — to impose an embargo on the supply of weapons to Afghanistan and to establish a group of friends and neighbours of that country, which became the so-called "6+2" contact group.

In developing cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Uzbekistan has always been guided by the principles of mutual respect, equal rights and reciprocal advantage. Under the leadership of President S. M. Mirziyoyev, Uzbekistan, as in the past, will conduct a good-neighbourly and friendly policy in relation to Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan's position of support to the government chosen by the Afghan people and commitment to the establishment of long-term stability and peace in Afghanistan remains unchanged.

Afghanistan's full integration and peaceful economic relations with the States of the region constitute an essential priority condition for its peaceful and stable development.

Uzbekistan has always provided all possible assistance and support to the Afghan people at the most difficult times and was the first country, in record time, to build the only railway to date in Afghanistan which goes to Mazar-i-Sharif. Since 2002, it has been supplying electricity to Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan is making an effective contribution to the implementation of United Nations programmes for the post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan; in particular, it opened a bridge on the Uzbek-Afghan border for international deliveries of humanitarian cargo and is assisting in the building of infrastructure projects in the territory of Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan regards as vitally important and supports the continuation of international efforts to provide practical assistance to the socioeconomic recovery of Afghanistan and the development of its transport and communications infrastructure.

Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the United Nations also covers ecological and environmental protection issues. In this area, Mr. S. M. Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan, is paying attention to yet another acute global problem, requiring an urgent solution — the Aral sea tragedy.

In view of the seriousness of this issue, an international conference was held in Uzbekistan in March 2008 on "Problems of Aral: impact on the gene pool of the population, flora and fauna and international cooperation for mitigating consequences" in which United Nations representatives took an active part. One of the most important documents, which gained unanimous support at the sixty-third session of the United Nations General Assembly, was resolution 63/133 on observer status in the General Assembly for the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, which Uzbekistan sponsored.

During his visit to Uzbekistan on 4-5 April 2010, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, visited the Aral region. At the end of his visit he noted the need to adopt urgent measures to prevent the further deterioration of the situation in the Aral region and mitigate the effects of the Aral disaster. He stressed that the United Nations is prepared to assist Uzbekistan in resolving environmental problems. Following his visit, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Volunteers, in coordination with partners in Uzbekistan, launched a joint United Nations programme entitled "Sustaining Livelihoods Affected by the Aral Sea Disaster".

In September 2013, a "Programme of measures on eliminating the consequences of the drying up of the Aral Sea and averting the catastrophe of the ecological systems in the Aral Sea region", comprising vital projects to stabilize and improve the situation in the environmental disaster area, which had been formulated during Uzbekistan's presidency of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, was circulated as an official document of the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly.

In order to further develop international cooperation and mobilize funds from the donor community for the implementation of practical measures to improve the situation in the Aral region, an international conference on the "Development of cooperation in the Aral sea basin to mitigate the consequences of the environmental catastrophe" was held in Urgench on 28-29 October 2014, on the initiative of Uzbekistan.

The President of Uzbekistan, Mr. S. M. Mirziyoyev, is calling for the efforts of the international community to be focused on reducing the harmful impact of this environmental disaster on the livelihoods of the millions of people living in Central Asia and preserving the natural and biological balance in the Aral region.

A significant event in Uzbekistan's relations with the United Nations was the participation of the leadership of the Republic of Uzbekistan at the High-level

Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), held in September 2010 in New York. We achieved concrete results in joint work with the United Nations during the implementation of the MDGs and gained significant capacity for cooperation. Maternal mortality fell by a factor of 3.2, and child mortality — by a factor of 3.4, and average life expectancy rose from 66 to 73.5 years, and 76 years for women. The national MDGs were successfully achieved in the area of ensuring universal access to primary education and gender equality in primary and secondary schools. This clearly demonstrates the steady improvement in the quality of life and well-being of our people. The fact that, in 2015, Uzbekistan was one of 14 countries of the world which received awards from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for achieving the MDG in the area of ensuring food security constitutes recognition of the successes achieved.

Accordingly, it may be affirmed today with full confidence that the relations between Uzbekistan and the United Nations over the past 25 years have been characterized by significant advances and are developing in a dynamic fashion in all directions. All the proposals put forward by Uzbekistan within the United Nations have been fully supported by the international community and today are making a significant practical contribution to ensuring universal peace, stability and sustainable development. Our country remains committed to the further expansion and deepening of mutually advantageous cooperation with the United Nations.